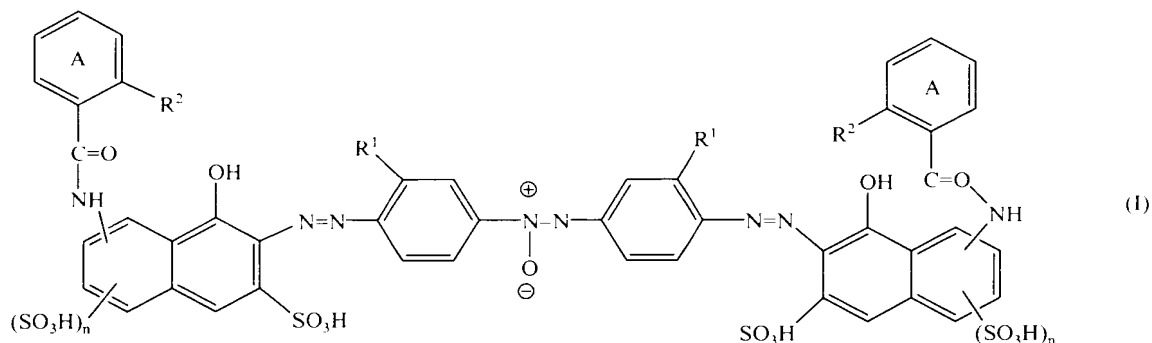


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): Azoxy dyes of the general formula I in the form of a free acid



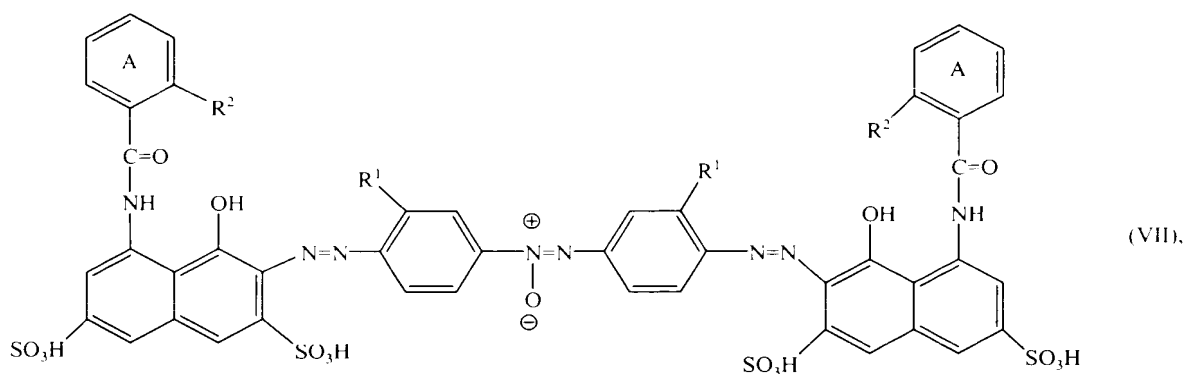
where

n is 0 or 1, each

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of methoxy, hydroxyl and carboxyl, each

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of carboxyl, amino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylamino, allylamino, benzylamino and methoxycarbonylmethylamino, and the phenyl rings A may additionally be substituted by C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkyl, unsubstituted or methyl- or halogen-substituted phenyl, hydroxyl, amino, nitro, halogen, carboxyl, N-benzylcarbonyl, unsubstituted or nitro-, halogen-, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy- or acetoxy-substituted phenylcarbonyl and naphthylcarbonyl or be benzofused.

Claim 2 (Original): Azoxy dyes as claimed in claim 1 of the general formula VII in the form of the free acid



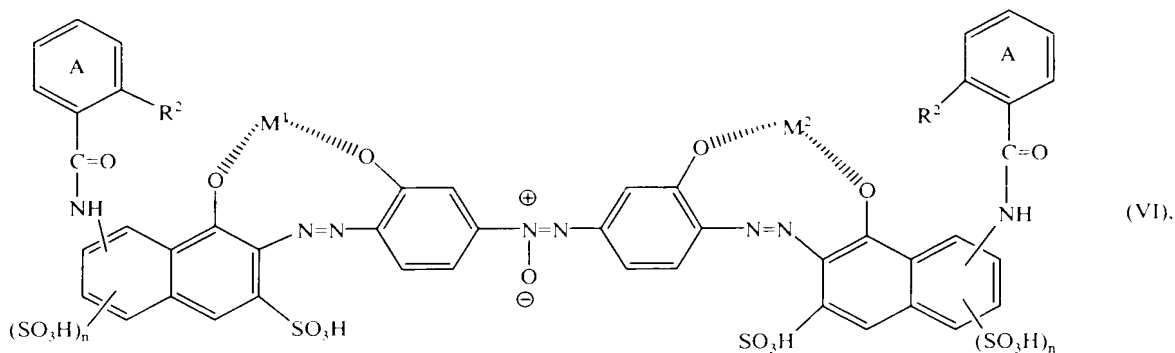
where  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and A are each as defined in claim 1.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): Azoxy dyes as claimed in claim 1, wherein each  $R^1$  is methoxy.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): Azoxy dyes as claimed in claim 1, wherein the phenyl rings A are unsubstituted or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl substituted.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): Azoxy dyes as claimed in claim 1, wherein each  $R^2$  is carboxyl.

Claim 6 (Original): Copper complex dyes of the general formula VI in the form of the free acid



where at least one of  $M^1$  and  $M^2$  is copper (II) and any which is not is hydrogen and methyl, and n,  $R^2$  and A are each as defined in claim 1, and mixtures thereof.

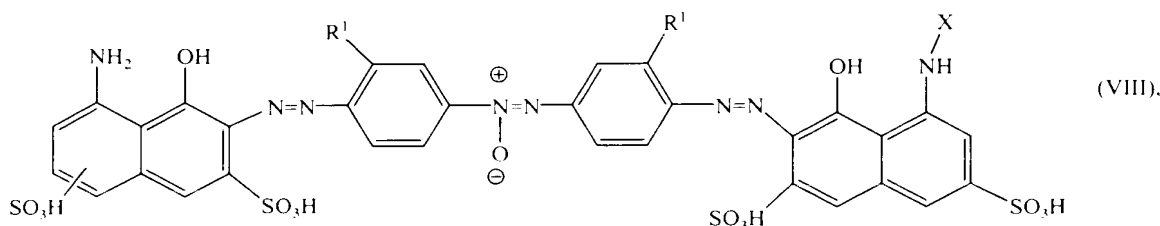
Claim 7 (Previously Presented): Copper complex dyes and their mixtures obtainable by reacting the dyes of claim 1 with at least 0.1 mol equivalent of a copper donor.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing copper complex dyes, which comprises reacting an azoxy dye of claim 1 with at least 0.1 mol equivalent of a copper donor.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A method of using one or more azoxy dyes and/or their copper complexes of claim 1 for dyeing or printing natural or synthetic substrates.

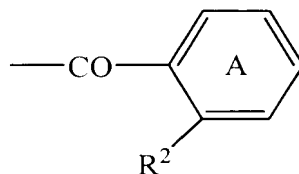
Claim 10 (Previously Presented): Natural or synthetic substrates dyed or printed with one or more azoxy dyes and/or their copper complexes of claim 1.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): Azoxy dyes of the general formula VIII in the form of the free acid



where

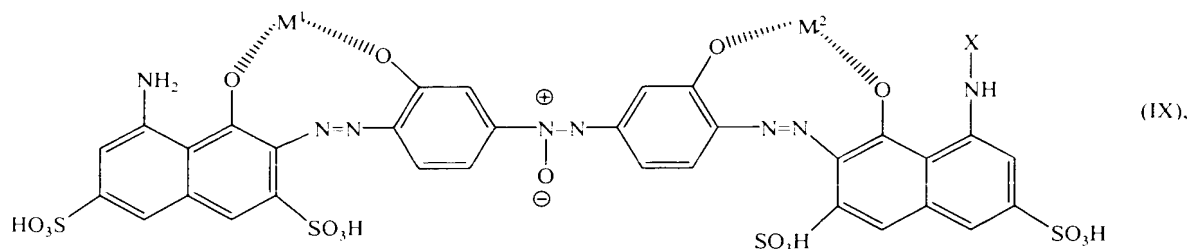
X is hydrogen or a radical of the formula



$R^1$  is selected from the group consisting of methoxy[,], and hydroxyl and carboxyl,

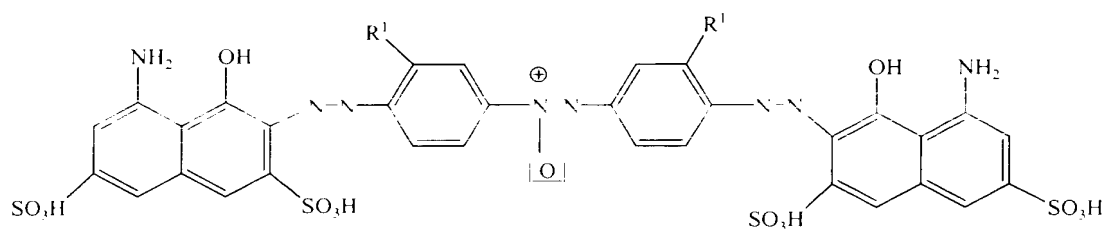
$R^2$  is selected from the group consisting of carboxyl, amino,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkylamino, allylamino, benzylamino and methoxycarbonylmethylamino and the phenyl ring A may additionally be substituted by substituents selected from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_8$ -alkyl, unsubstituted phenyl, methyl-substituted phenyl, halogen-substituted phenyl, hydroxyl, amino, nitro, halogen, carboxyl, N-benzylcarbamoyle, unsubstituted or nitro-, halogen-,  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy- or acetoxy-substituted phenylcarbamoyle and naphthylcarbamoyle or may be benzofused.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): Copper complex dyes of the general formula IX in the form of the free acid



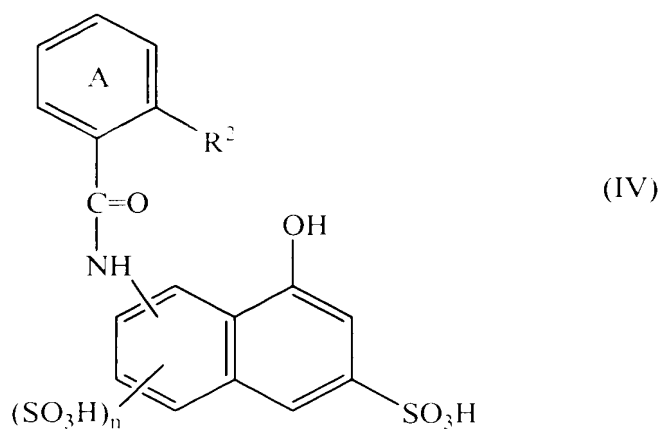
where at least one of  $M^1$  and  $M^2$  is copper (II) and any which is not is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ hydrogen and methyl, and X is as defined in claim 11, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing azoxy dyes of the formula

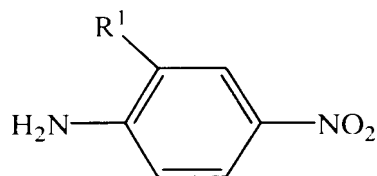


where

$R^1$  is selected from the group consisting of methoxy, hydroxyl and carboxyl, which comprises coupling a coupling component of the formula IV



with nitroaniline of the formula V



where  $n$ ,  $A$ ,  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  are each as defined in claim 1, reducing the resultant nitro monoazo dye and deacylating in aqueous solution at  $\text{pH} < 9$ .

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 11 has been amended by deleting carboxyl from the R<sup>1</sup> Markush group.

Claim 12 has been amended to correct an error in the recital of M<sup>1</sup> and M<sup>2</sup> when not copper (II), as supported in the specification at page 5, prenumbered lines 27-31. Compare to Claim 6.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-13 remain pending in the application.